

What is claimed is:

1. A magnet assembly suitable to be connected to a metal assembly in an engaging fashion, comprising:
 - an upper portion; and
 - a lower magnetic portion connected with the upper portion.
2. The magnet assembly of claim 1, wherein the magnet assembly is located on a strap.
3. The magnet assembly of claim 2, wherein the lower magnetic portion is connected with the upper portion through the strap.
4. The magnet assembly of claim 1, wherein the upper portion includes a protruding element and the lower portion includes a recessed region, the protruding element engaging with the recessed region to secure the magnet assembly in position.
5. The magnet assembly of claim 2, wherein the upper portion and the lower magnetic portion are secured to the strap by means of pressure forces.
6. The magnet assembly according to claim 1, wherein the lower magnetic portion is arc- bean- shaped.
7. A magnet assembly suitable to be connected to a substantially flat item, comprising:
 - a cap having an upper part and a lower part, the cap securing the magnet assembly to the item; and
 - a lower magnetic portion contacting the cap.
8. The magnet assembly of claim 7, wherein the item is a strap.
9. The magnet assembly of claim 7, wherein the lower magnetic portion is partially recessed into the cap.
10. A magnet assembly suitable to be connected to a substantially flat item, comprising:
 - a tip;

a lower magnetic portion; and
a retention pin adapted to connect the lower magnetic portion with the tip.

11. The magnet assembly of claim 10, wherein the item is a strap.
12. The magnet according to claim 10, wherein the lower magnetic portion is arc-bean-shaped.
13. A metal assembly suitable to be secured to a substantially flat item, comprising:
 - one or more metal elements, each of the one or more metal elements having a mating portion and an engaging portion; and
 - one or more rivets, each of the one or more rivets being connected with each of the one or more metal elements through the engaging portion, thereby securing the assembly to the item,

wherein the metal assembly is further connectable to a magnet assembly in a mating fashion.
14. The metal assembly according to claim 13, wherein the item is a strap.
15. The metal assembly according to claim 13, further comprising a rib adjacent to the one or more metal elements.
16. The metal assembly according to claim 15, wherein the rib is included in the metal assembly in addition to the metal elements, the rib being additional to the metal elements, separating and spacing the metal elements of the assembly.
17. The metal assembly according to claim 15, wherein the rib is integral with the metal elements, and comprises a spine portion having a plurality of holes and a plurality of mating portions.
18. A snapping mechanism suitable to secure portions of a substantially flat item, the snapping mechanism comprising a magnet assembly and a metal assembly, the magnet assembly having an upper portion and a lower magnetic portion connected with the upper portion, the metal assembly having one or more metal elements, each of the one or more metal elements having a mating portion and an engaging portion, the metal

assembly further having one or more rivets, each of the one or more rivets connected with each of the one or more metal elements through the engaging portion, thereby securing the metal assembly to the item, the metal assembly being connectable to the magnet assembly in a mating fashion.

19. A snapping mechanism according to claim 18, wherein the substantially flat item is a watch band.

20. A substantially flat item, comprising a snapping mechanism according to claim 18.

21. The item of claim 20, the item is a watch band.

22. The item of claim 20, wherein the item is a strap having an upper surface and a lower surface.

23. The item according to claim 22, wherein the upper surface of the strap is a smooth convex surface and the lower surface of the strap is a smooth concave surface.

24. A process for manufacturing a substantially flat item, comprising:

providing a snapping mechanism comprising a magnet assembly and a metal assembly, the magnet assembly having an upper portion and a lower magnetic portion connected with the upper portion, the metal assembly having one or more metal elements, each of the one or more metal elements having a mating portion and an engaging portion, the metal assembly further having one or more rivets, each of the one or more rivets connected with each of the metal elements through the engaging portion;

connecting the metal assembly to the magnet assembly in a mating fashion; and providing a substantially flat portion in which to include the snapping mechanism.

25. A leaf spring element having a first lateral portion, a second lateral portion and a central portion acting as a spring and located between the first lateral portion and the second lateral portion,

each of the first and second lateral portions having a substantially rectangular shape and comprising a slanted leg, each slanted leg comprising a first leg portion and a second leg portion, the first leg portion substantially lying in a first plane, the second

leg portion substantially lying on a second plane different from the first plane, the second leg portion ending with a hollow section, each of the first and second lateral portions comprising a first corner substantially facing the central portion;

the central portion being a bent central portion having a substantially trapezoidal shape and having a first slanted edge and a second slanted edge;

the leaf spring element further comprising first and second cut sections separating the central portion from the first and second lateral portions respectively, each of the first and second cut sections having a distal end and a proximate end, the distal end being located between the first or second slanted edge and the first corner of the first and second lateral portions.

26. The leaf spring element of claim 25, wherein the second plane is substantially perpendicular to the first plane.

27. The leaf spring element of claim 25, wherein each of the first and second lateral portions comprises a second corner and a third corner, distal to the central portion, each of the first and second lateral portions comprising a first tooth located adjacent the second corner and a second tooth located adjacent to the third corner, the first and second teeth located in a third plane and the first and second lateral portions located in a fourth plane different from the third plane.

28. The leaf spring element of claim 27, wherein the third plane is substantially perpendicular to the fourth plane.

29. A process for manufacturing a leaf-spring element comprising: annealing a material; cutting the annealed material; bending the cut annealed material; and heat treating the bent cut annealed material.

30. The process of claim 29, wherein the leaf spring element is the leaf spring element of claim 25.

31. A hinging assembly comprising the leaf spring element according to claim 25 and a hinge pin allowing connection of the leaf spring element with an item.

32. An item comprising the hinging assembly of claim 31.
33. The item according to claim 32, wherein the item is a watch.
34. A base element to be used with a watch case, comprising:
 - a substantially circular central portion having a first curved edge and a second curved edge; and
 - two side portions integral with the central portion, wherein the central portion comprises, along the first curved edge, a hinging region to allow the base element to be hingedly connected with the watch case, and, in proximity of the second curved edge, a recessed region to allow a further connection between the base element and the watch case.
35. The base element of claim 34, wherein the side portions comprise bent edges.
36. The base element of claim 34, wherein the recessed region is a locking region allowing locking between the base element and the watch case.
37. The base element of claim 34, wherein the recessed region provides a recess for a crown of the watch case.
38. The base element of claim 34, further comprising a path providing region allowing an item to be inserted.
39. The base element of claim 38, wherein the path-providing region is a recessed region.
40. The base element of claim 38, wherein the path providing region includes slightly rised edges.
41. A hinging assembly comprising a watch case and a base element, the base element is the base element of claim 34.
42. The hinging assembly of claims 41, wherein the base element is flat.
43. The hinging assembly of claim 41, wherein the base element is concave.

44. The hinging assembly of claim 41, wherein a hinge pin is positioned in the hinging region of the base element, the hinge pin connecting the watch case with the base element.

45. The hinging assembly of claim 41, wherein the watch case comprises an external side visible during normal use of the watch and an internal side not visible during normal use of the watch, the internal side having an overall peripheral shape substantially matching a peripheral shape of the base element.

46. The hinging assembly of claim 45, wherein the watch case comprises a crown, and the internal side is so shaped to allow the crown to come into engageable connection with the recessed region of the base element.

47. The hinging assembly of claim 45, wherein the internal side comprises a substantially rectangular region.

48. The hinging assembly of claim 47, wherein the substantially rectangular region is centrally disposed and slightly recessed with respect to a remaining part of the internal side.

49. The hinging assembly of claim 45, wherein the internal side comprises a substantially oval region.

50. The hinging assembly of claim 41, adapted to be used with a watch band, the watch band inserted between the watch case and the base element.

51. The hinging assembly of claim 50, wherein the watch band comprises a magnet assembly according to claim 1.

52. The hinging assembly of claim 50, wherein the watch band comprises a metal assembly according to claim 13.

53. The hinging assembly of claim 50, wherein the watch band comprises a snapping mechanism according to claim 18.

54. A watch system including:

a first visual display showing a time; and

a second visual display showing indication of an event associated with the time shown by the first display, the event being variable in accordance with the time shown by the first display.

55. The watch system of claim 54, wherein the first display shows time in an analog manner.

56. The watch system of claim 54, wherein the first display shows time in a digital manner.

57. The watch system of claim 54, wherein the watch system comprises a sound-emitting mechanism.

58. The watch system of claim 54, wherein the first display shows the time according to a 12-hour arrangement.

59. The watch system of claim 54, wherein the first display shows the time according to a 24-hour arrangement.

60. The watch system of claim 54, wherein the first display shows time by means of an hour-only arrangement.

61. The watch system of claim 54, wherein the first display shows time by means of a hours-minutes-seconds arrangement.

62. The watch system of claim 54, wherein the indication of an event in the second visual display comprises an icon thematically associated with the time shown in the first visual display.

63. The watch system of claim 54, wherein the event is also variable in accordance with the skills of the user.

64. A method to teach a user how to tell the time, the method comprising use of the watch system according to claim 48.

65. A watch band to be used in conjunction with a watch case having an upper surface and a lower surface, the watch band comprising:

 a portion having a shape substantially matching a shape of the lower surface of the watchcase.

66. The watch band of claim 65, wherein the portion of the watch band and the lower surface of the watchcase have a substantially circular shape.

67. The watch band of claim 65, wherein the portion of the watch band and the lower surface of the watchcase have a substantially oval shape.

68. A snapping mechanism on a strap, the strap comprising recessed regions, the snapping mechanism comprising a magnet assembly and a metal assembly, the metal assembly being connectable with the magnet assembly in a mating fashion, the metal assembly comprising one or more staple elements, each of the one or more staple elements having a mating portion and an engaging portion, the engaging portion comprising a first bendable portion and a second bendable portion, the first and second bendable portion being inserted into the strap in correspondence of the recessed regions.

69. The snapping mechanism of claim 68, wherein each recessed region comprises two slots, the first bendable portion of the staple elements being inserted in one of the two slots, and the second bendable portion of the staple elements being inserted in the other one of the two slots.

70. The snapping mechanism of claim 68, wherein the mating portion is substantially arc-bean-shaped.

71. The snapping mechanism of claim 68, wherein each recessed region comprises two stepped portions and a flat portion between the two stepped portions.

72. The snapping mechanism of claim 68, wherein each recessed region comprises a first slot between one stepped portion and the flat portion and a second slot between the other stepped portion and the flat portion.

73. The snapping mechanism of claim 72, wherein the first bendable portion of the staple elements is inserted into the first slot and the second bendable portion of the staple elements is inserted into the second slot.